

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01

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R 061830Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8561

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: KOHL SHIFTING COURSE ON MITBESTIMMUNG: SEEKS
CDU CONVENTION APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE MODEL

REF: A) DUESSELDORF 1225 B) BONN 14758

1. SUMMARY: IN THE WAKE OF OVERWHELMING APPROVAL BY
THE RHINELAND AND WESTPHALIAN CDU OF THE INDUSTRIAL
CO-DETERMINATION (MITBESTIMMUNG) MODEL OF THE PARTY'S
LABOR WING, CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL IS NOW QUICKLY BACKING
AWAY FROM THE MODEL ADOPTED BY THE CDU'S FEDERAL
EXECUTIVE BOARD AND HAS BEGUN THE SEARCH FOR A COMPRO-
MISE BETWEEN THE TWO PLANS. HAVING ALREADY GOTTEN
HIMSELF OUT ON A LIMB WITH THE VOW THAT THE CDU CONVEN-
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TION MUST ADOPT A DEFINITIVE POSITION ON THIS CONTRO-

VERSIAL ISSUE, KOHL'S INTEGRATING TALENTS WILL BE PUT TO A DIFFICULT TEST AT HAMBURG. HE IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A SPLIT WITHIN THE PARTY ON THIS QUESTION AND IS DETERMINED TO FIND A PLAN WHICH CAN COMMAND SUPPORT OF A LARGE MAJORITY OF CONVENTION DELEGATES. END SUMMARY.

2. REACTING QUICKLY TO THE RESULTS OF THE CDU CONVENTIONS IN RHINELAND AND WESTPHALIA LAST WEEKEND (REF A), KOHL MET WITH THE CDU PRESIDUM NOVEMBER 5 AND ANNOUNCED HE WOULD SEEK A DECISION ON MITBESTIMMUNG BY "A CONVINCING MAJORITY" AT THE CDU CONVENTION IN HAMBURG NOVEMBER 18-20. SIGNIFICANTLY, HE DID NOT REPEAT HIS EARLIER ENDORSEMENT OF THE MODEL ADOPTED BY THE CDU'S EXECUTIVE BOARD (REF B). HE IS NOW CLEARLY TRYING TO PLACE SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THAT MODEL AND TO STEER THE PARTY TOWARD A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

3. IF KOHL IS TO AVOID A DIVISION IN THE PARTY ON THIS ISSUE, HE WILL HAVE TO ADVANCE QUITE A BIT FURTHER THAN HE, AND MOST OBSERVERS, FIRST THOUGHT TOWARD THE IDEAS OF THE CDU'S SOCIAL COMMITTEE. THE RHINELAND AND WESTPHALIAN DELEGATIONS ALONE WILL COMMAND ONE-THIRD OF THE CONVENTION DELEGATES (231 OUT OF 694), AND THEY WILL PICK UP ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS.

4. SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN PRESIDENT STOLTENBERG HAS REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED THAT A COMPROMISE MODEL MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A SUPERVISORY BOARD COMPOSED OF AN EQUAL (PARITY) NUMBER OF LABOR AND SHAREHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES. IN ADDITION, THERE WOULD BE A "THIRD BENCH" COMPOSED OF EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVES WITH "SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE" NOMINATED BY MANAGEMENT AND ELECTED BY THE SUPERVISORY BOARD. STILL LEFT UNDEFINED, HOWEVER, IS THE QUESTION OF HOW DECISIONS ARE TO BE MADE IN THE EVENT OF A STAND-OFF IN THE SUPERVISORY BOARD. SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HANS KATZER HAS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN PRINCIPLE IN WORKING OUT SUCH A COMPROMISE, BUT KOHL CLEARLY FACES A DIFFICULT TEST ON THIS ISSUE WITH THE CONVENTION NOW LESS THAN TWO WEEKS AWAY. HILLENBRAND

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